

# Preparedness Guide for Travelers

**H**eightedened security measures at airports make the process of arriving, checking-in and boarding an airplane longer. Knowing what to expect and being prepared for emergencies can make your trip both safe and enjoyable.

## PLAN AHEAD

§ Allow extra time. The screening process takes longer now, so you should contact your airline to find out how early to arrive.

§ Take public transportation to the airport if possible, since parking may be controlled or restricted.

§ Don't count on curbside check-in. Contact your airline to see if it is still in place at your airport.

§ Make sure you have a government-issued ID (federal, state, or local); it is now required to board a plane.

§ If you have an E-ticket, you may need written confirmation from the airline, such as a letter, fax or e-mail. Check ahead of time to make sure you have the proper documentation.

## PACK WITH CARE

§ Certain items, such as knives, cutting instruments and ski poles can no longer be carried on board, but walking

canes and umbrellas can. Check with your airline if you are unsure about whether to place an item in checked or carry-on baggage.

§ Remember that each traveler is limited to one carry-on bag and one personal bag such as a purse, laptop computer or briefcase.

§ All electronic items, such as laptops and cell phones, may be subjected to additional screening at the airport.

§ Do not gift-wrap carry-on items, as they may need to be opened during security screening.

§ List your name, address and telephone numbers inside and outside of each piece of luggage. Use covered luggage tags to avoid casual observation of your identity.

## BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

§ Stay especially alert and watch your bags carefully at all times. Don't let anyone but uniformed airline personnel handle or watch your bags.

§ Report anything suspicious to the nearest airport or airline

personnel, including unattended luggage or packages.

§ Do not bring anything on board for another person unknown to or not traveling with you, no matter how innocent or small the package or item may appear.

§ Take what you hear seriously. If you overhear someone bragging or talking about plans to harm citizens, report it to law enforcement immediately.

## **KNOW EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

§ Listen carefully to the safety briefing on the plane, and follow any instructions from airline personnel.

§ Review the passenger safety card before takeoff and landing.

§ Locate the plane's emergency exits, both in front and behind you. Count rows between you and the nearest front and rear exits.

§ Make a mental plan of action in case of emergency.

## **AS ALWAYS, PRACTICE GOOD CRIME PREVENTION**

§ Watch out for staged mishaps, like someone bumping into you or spilling a drink. Often it's a ploy to divert your attention while a pickpocket grabs your wallet or other valuables.

§ Carry one or two major credit cards and travelers' checks rather than cash.

§ Carry your purse close to your body, or your wallet in an inside front pocket. Consider wearing a money pouch under your clothes.

§ Never leave your bags unattended or behind your back where you cannot see them.

§ Keep a separate record of the contents of checked luggage. Keep anything of value in a carry-on bag that stays with you.

§ Avoid displaying expensive cameras, jewelry and luggage that might draw attention. Your aim should be to blend into with the crowd.

## **FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS**

§ Monitor current events and review the latest information on any countries you plan to visit. Most important are the bulletins on the Department of State's Web site, at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov).

§ Make two photocopies of your passport identification page, airline tickets, driver's license, and credit cards. Leave one copy at home and pack the other in a place separate from where you carry valuables.

§ To avoid problems with customs officials, keep medicines in their original, labeled containers.

§ If you wear glasses or contact lenses, pack an extra pair.

§ Use the same common sense that you would at home; be cautious in, or avoid, areas such as crowded

subways, train stations, elevators, market places and festivals where you are more likely to be victimized.

**Transportation Safety  
Administration:  
A MUST Read for Anyone  
Traveling by Air**

*Source: Transportation Safety  
Administration (TSA)*

Following these tips will help you reduce your wait time at the security checkpoint.

**Before the Airport**

§ Do NOT pack or bring prohibited items to the airport. Read the Permitted and Prohibited Items list.

§ Refrain from taking wrapped presents to the airport. TSA is recommending that you either ship wrapped packages ahead of time or wrap on arrival. If the package alarms, TSA will need to unwrap it to investigate the source of the alarm.

§ Avoid wearing shoes, clothing, jewelry and accessories that contain metal. Metal items may set off the alarm on the metal detector.

§ Put all undeveloped film and cameras with film in your carry-on baggage. Checked baggage screening equipment will damage undeveloped film.

§ Carry-on baggage is limited to one carry-on bag plus one personal item. Personal items include laptop

computers, purses, small backpacks, briefcases and camera cases.

Remember, "1+1."

§ Place identification tags in and on all of your baggage. Don't forget to label your laptop computer. These are one of the most forgotten items at Screening Checkpoints.

**At the Airport**

§ Put metal IN your carry-on bag. This includes jewelry, loose change, keys, mobile phones, pagers and personal data assistants (PDAs).

§ Take OUT your laptop computer. Place it in a bin, separate from its carrying case.

§ Take OFF your outer coat. Place it in a bin. Suit jackets and blazers do not have to be removed, unless requested by the screener.